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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

In the Matter of

**Requests for Interim Authority for U.S.-Hong Kong Fifth-Freedom
All-Cargo Frequencies**

Dockets OST-2002-13737, 2002-13795, 2002-13804, 2002-13816

Served: November 13, 2002

Notice Establishing Common Answer and Reply Dates

Under the October 19, 2002, Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (Hong Kong), U.S. carriers may, among other things, provide a frequency-limited number of additional fifth-freedom services. By Notice served October 29, 2002, the Department solicited applications and requests for all of the new U.S. carrier rights set forth in the MOU that are frequency-limited, with the exception of those all-cargo frequencies that do not become available until the third year of the phase-in. These applications were to be filed by November 5, 2002. Eight U.S. carriers filed for all-cargo fifth-freedom frequencies. The Department is in the process of establishing procedures for those applications and will issue an order on such procedures in the near future.

In addition to the requested applications, four U.S. carriers (Federal Express, Northwest, Polar, and United Parcel Service) have filed separate applications for immediate, interim allocation of the available frequencies, and each seeks a different shortened answer period for responses to the respective applications.¹ Under the Department's regulations, the normal answer period for frequency requests is fifteen days after filing of an application, with replies due seven days after the last day for filing an answer.² In order to facilitate our consideration of these applications in an expeditious fashion, we have decided to establish a common date for the filing of answers and for the filing of replies for the four applications seeking interim authority. Therefore, acting under authority assigned in 14 CFR 385.3, we will require that answers to the applications filed in the above-captioned Dockets be filed no later than Monday, November 18, 2002, and that replies be filed no later than Wednesday,

¹ Federal Express, Docket OST-2002-13737, filed November 1, 2002; Northwest, Docket OST-13804, filed November 7, 2002; Polar Air Cargo, Docket OST-13795, filed November 7, 2002; and UPS, filed November 12, 2002.

² 14 CFR 302.307 and 14 CFR 302.308.

November 20, 2002. While these dates will shorten the answer period for three applications and the reply period for all applications, we believe that the public interest will best be served by establishing the common dates and will eliminate any confusion as to filing dates for these related applications.

We authorize service of documents by facsimile and by electronic mail. We will serve this notice by facsimile or email on all parties served with the four requests for immediate interim frequencies.

By:

PAUL L. GRETCH

Director, Office of International Aviation

(SEAL)

Dated: November 13, 2002

An electronic version of this notice is available on the World Wide Web at
http://dms.dot.gov/reports/reports_aviation.asp